

Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

February 09, 2010

10:00 AM

University Club, 95 Upper College Road

Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

University of Rhode Island

AGENDA

Attendance

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts Major General Robert T. Bray

RIEMA Director David Smith Edward Johnson

Bob Beagle Dr. Jimmie Oxley

Larry Grimaldi Kate McCarthy – Barnett

Gregory Scungio Dawn Lewis

Paul Stasiuk James F. Vierra

Don Ledversis Tracie McCain

Robert Johnson Richard Brown

Geof Milner Paul Sturtevant

Joseph Baker Steve Preston

Josh Manfredo Shad Ahmed

Claudia Staniszewski Susan Early

Steven Florio Peter T. Ginaitt
Kenneth Smith Andrea Hopkins
Vladimir Ibarra

I. Call to Order/ Attendance-Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Bob Beagle, Vice President for University Advancement welcomed EMAC members to the University of Rhode Island on behalf of President Dooley. Mr. Beagle expressed how proud he was of the faculty members and thanked the Lieutenant Governor for her leadership and for highlighting their Center of Excellence. Lieutenant Governor Roberts thanked Dr. Oxley for hosting the meeting and for providing a glimpse into the research activities and collaborations our state continues to work towards.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2010

Steve Preston made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Dawn Lewis. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. RIEMA Update

- Major General Robert T. Bray, Adjutant General of Rhode Island**

General Bray stated that in light of the winter storm watch for tomorrow, there would be several conference calls in the afternoon. The General reported that Washington D.C. is completely shut down and that Hurricane states are currently at level three while Rhode Island is at level two. The Rhode Island National Guard has a priority of ten competencies of the homeland mission. The challenge will be

to continue maintaining personnel due to deployments. In regards to the Stafford Act which constitutes the statutory authority for most Federal disaster response activities especially as they pertain to FEMA programs funding and sheltering continue to be a challenge. Lastly, the General reminded members to start dusting off their Hurricane plans, revise them and assess needs.

- **RI Emergency Management Agency Director David Smith**

Director Smith wanted to recognize all levels (first responders, community and individuals) for pushing the vaccination efforts. He stated that there would be an after action report. The Director was pleased as Rhode Island is considered a best practice state due to our seventy three percent participation with the H1N1 clinics.

In regards to the possible storm, Director Smith stated that he has been working closely with Rhode Island Superintendents and reiterated that conference calls would take place to apprise stakeholders of the situation. Lastly, he reminded members that URI was on the cutting edge by preparing to create the first U.S. Emergency Preparedness Center in higher education in the country. Director Smith commended EMAC member Brian Pires for working towards this effort.

- **H1N1 Update:**

Dr. Kate McCarthy Barnett provided a brief update on the H1N1 clinics. She stated that as of February twenty-four clinics have been

hosted in Rhode Island communities. Thus far, three hundred and eight-four thousand Rhode Islanders have been vaccinated. Lieutenant Governor has visited six clinics and has been very impressed with the volunteer efforts. She highlighted the work in Central Falls which incorporated EMT training in school integrating first responders and volunteers.

IV. Dr. Jimmie Oxley, Co-Director of the Department of Homeland Security's Center of Excellence in Explosives Mitigation, Response and Characterization at the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Oxley explained the main focus of the program was to protect the nation from the physical and economic harm caused by the threat of explosive attack. In addition, they strive to educate students and practicing and future homeland security professionals. The education includes not only transformational research and advance technologies but also the principles and culture of safety in working with hazardous materials. The center has four interrelated focus:

- 1. Explosives Characterization to understand the explosive threat and prevent it.**
- 2. Explosives Detection Sensors concentrates on understanding the fundamental problems of trace detection of explosives, and improve explosive sample collection.**
- 3. Explosive Detection Sensor Systems to detect the explosive threat; and**
- 4. Blast Mitigation to minimize the effects of a successful bombing by**

lessening damage and loss of lives and time.

Besides the four interrelated focus, the center contains an educational piece funded by the Department of Homeland Security that reaches out to citizens of all ages to enhance awareness of pertinent science and engineering. Towards this effort, Dr. Oxley assembled a nationally and internationally renowned team that will enhance teacher training in science in kindergarten through high school, undergraduate and graduate science education at participating universities, and stimulate explosives research in the areas of detection, mitigation, response and characterization. These are a few of the activities the center is engaged in:

K-12 Magic Shows “Chemistry is Fun” and a summer research experience for high school teachers. The program had the participation of seven teachers in 2009. Moreover, the school worked to create the first Lego League Robotics Championship Tournament. The tournament provides nine to fourteen year olds an opportunity to build a robot through an intense two to three month period of robotic design and programming as well as scientific research.

First-Responders/ Law Enforcement. These courses are developed on request and are based on understanding lab prep of explosives. Following the Madrid train bombings, TSA stepped up its efforts to enhance security on rail and mass transit systems nationwide by creating and deploying Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response

(VIPR) teams. The teams are comprised of federal air marshals, surface transportation security inspectors, transportation security officers, behavior detection officers and explosives detection canine teams.

Professional Development. Twenty eight to thirty two short courses in the last five years. This year well over four hundred professionals took the classes. For next year the center plans to offer twelve new courses.

Supporting a Culture of Safety. CoE researchers will be asked to review and document, where necessary, the standard operating protocols (SOP) and include safety procedures. Self review and Center-wide review will be conducted. Safety seminars will be created and made available to CoE researchers as well as an external final review of safety procedures is intended.

V. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestions

Next meeting will take place on March 9th at 10:00 am.
